

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, November 28. 1706.

Because I am entring upon a nicer Case than ordinary, and in which I may not see by the same Light with some People, who are taking all possible Advantages against the *Scots* in particular, and against the Union in general; after having told you, that it was agreed in Parliament, next after the general Article to enter upon the Act of Security for the Church, I think, it cannot be amiss to give you a Draught of that Act of Security, as it was, with Consent of sundry Well-Wishers to the Church of *Scotland*, presented to the Parliament, as follows —

“ Our Sovereign Lady, and the Estates
“ of Parliament, considering, that by the
“ late Act of Parliament, for a Treaty with
“ England for an Union of both Kingdoms,
“ it is approved, That the Commissioners for

“ that Treaty should not treat of, or concerning
“ any Alteration of the Worship, Discipline
“ and Government of this Kingdom, as now
“ by Law Established; Which Treaty being
“ now reported to the Parliament, and it
“ being reasonable and necessary, that the
“ true Protestant Religion, as presently
“ professed within this Kingdom, with the
“ Worship, Discipline and Government of this
“ Church, should be effectually and un-
“ alterably secured; Therefore, Her Ma-
“ jesty, with the Advice and Consent of the
“ said Estates of Parliament, doth hereby
“ establish and confirm the said true Protes-
“ tant Religion, and the Worship, Disci-
“ pline and Government of this Church, to
“ continue without any Alteration by the
“ People of this Land to all succeeding Ge-
“ nerations; and more especially, Her Ma-
“ jesty

" jecty with Advice and Consent aforesaid,
 " ratifies, approves and for ever confirms
 " the 5th Act of the first Parliament, K. W.
 " and Q. M. Intituled, *Act ratifying the*
 " *the Confession of Faith, and settling Pres-*
 " *byterian Church-Government*, with the
 " other Acts of Parliament relating there-
 " to, in Prosecution of the Declaration of
 " Estates of this Kingdom, containing the
 " *Claim of Right*, bearing Date the 11th of
 " April, 1689. And Her Majesty, with
 " Advice and Consent aforesaid, expressly
 " provides and declares, that the aforesaid
 " *true Protestant Religion*, contain'd in the
 " above mentioned *Confession of Faith*, with
 " the Form and Purity of Worship present-
 " ly in Use within this Church, and its
 " *Presbyterian Church-Government* and
 " Discipline, *that is to say*, the Government
 " of Church by *Kirk Sessions, Presbyteries,*
 " *Provincial Synods, and general Assemblies,*
 " all established by the aforesaid Acts of
 " Parliament, pursuant to the *Claim of Right*,
 " shall remain and continue unalterable;
 " and that the said *Presbyterian Govern-*
 " *ment* shall be the only Government of the
 " Church within the Kingdom of Scotland.
 " And further, for the greater Security of
 " the aforesaid Protestant Religion, and of
 " the *Worship, Discipline, and Government*
 " of this Church as above established; Her
 " Majesty, with Advice and Consent aforesaid, *statutes and ordains*, that, in all
 " time coming, no Professors, Principals,
 " Regents, Masters or others bearing
 " Office in any University, College, or
 " School within this Kingdom, be capable,
 " or be admitted or allowed to continue in
 " the Exercise of their said Functions, but
 " such as shall own and acknowledge the
 " civil Government in manner prescrib'd
 " or to be prescrib'd by the Acts of *Parlia-*
 " *ment*. As also, that before or at their
 " Admissions, they do and shall acknow-
 " ledge and profess, and shall subscribe to
 " the aforesaid *Confession of Faith*, as the
 " *Confession of their Faith*, and that they
 " will practise and conform themselves to
 " the Worship presently in Use in this
 " Church, and submit themselves to the
 " Government and Discipline thereof, and
 " never endeavour directly or indirectly

" the Prejudice or Subversion of the same,
 " and that before the respective *Presbye-*
 " *ries* of their Bounds, by whatsoever Gift,
 " Presentation or Provision they may be
 " thereto provided. And further, Her
 " Majesty, with Advice aforesaid, expres-
 " ly declares and *statutes*, that none of the
 " Subjects of this Kingdom shall be liable
 " to, but all and every one of them for
 " ever free of any Oath, Test or Subscrip-
 " tion within this Kingdom, contrary to,
 " or inconsistent with the aforesaid Prote-
 " stant Religion, and *Presbyterian Church-*
 " *Government, Worship and Discipline* as
 " above established, and that the same with-
 " in the Bounds of this Church and King-
 " dom shall never be impos'd upon, or re-
 " quired of them in any Sort. And lastly,
 " That after the Decease of Her present
 " Majesty, (whom GOD long preserve) the
 " Sovereign succeeding to Her in the Royal
 " Government of this Kingdom, shall in
 " Time coming, at His or Her Accession
 " to the Crown, swear and subscribe, that
 " they shall maintain and preserve the
 " aforesaid Settlement of the true *Prote-*
 " *stant Religion*, with the Government,
 " *Worship and Discipline* of this Church
 " as above established, inviolably. And it
 " is hereby *statuted and ordained*, That this
 " Act of Parliament, with the Establish-
 " ment therein contain'd, shall be held and
 " observ'd, in all Time coming, as a Fun-
 " damental and Essential Condition of any
 " Treaty or Union to be concluded betwixt
 " the two Kingdoms, without any Altera-
 " tion thereof, or Derogation thereto in
 " any Sort for ever. As also, That this Act
 " of Parliament and Settlement therein
 " contain'd, shall be inserted and repeated
 " in any Act of Parliament, that shall pass
 " for agreeing and concluding the afore-
 " said Treaty or Union betwixt the two
 " Kingdoms, and that the same shall be
 " therein expressly declared to be a Funda-
 " mental and Essential Condition of the
 " said Treaty or Union in all Time coming.
 " I am the franker in publishing this Over-
 " ture of an Act, because

1. In Scotland it is too much found fault
 with, as not a sufficient Security for the
 Church; of which by it self, when I come

to enquire, who they were who protested against it as insufficient.

2. In *England* it has been suggested, that the Securities demanded in *Scotland* for the Kirk, are inconsistent with the Safety of the Church of *England*.

By this Draught it will appear, that as I said in some of the former Reviews, the Safety of the Church being comprehended in the Union, incorporated into the same Act of Parliament, and establish'd by the same Authority, the Church becomes establish'd on such a Foundation, as no subsequent Law, no not of the Parliament of *Britain*, can shake or overthrow it—— And this I note on the Account of those, who think the Church of *Scotland* in Danger of being subverted by the Union; and if common Reasoning would satisfy them, I cannot but think, they are well secured, and the equal Security both Churches have, ought to satisfy in that Case.

But this is a Subject more fit for me treat on, if I were in *Scotland*, and I have not been backward on that Head on the Spot.

But what shall I say to those, who think the Security of the Church of *Scotland* too much—To this I only say, the Union is a Treaty of Equalities——If it should in any Case break in upon the Square of Equality, unless with Equivalents, which is in its Nature an Equality, it ceases to be a Union, it returns to be an Oppression, and a foundation of constant Grudges, Jealousies and Disorders.

Equal Security therefore is the thing designed; they that grudge or repine at the Church of *Scotland*, having equal Security and equal Establishment, I mean, in Point of Safety or Liberty, either do not understand the Union, or do not approve it as such.

'Tis the QUEEN's Desire, and I believe all honest Men's Desire in *England*, that this Union should be a final Termination of all Wars, Quarrels, Jealousies and Animosities between the two Nations; whether Political, Civil, Ecclesiastical, and if possible, Personal.

And this is one Reason, why a Federal Union so much talk'd of, is agreed on all Hands to be impracticable; because it does

not remove those Inconveniences, which on both hands are allow'd to be the thing most wanted by both Nations. Now Peace can never be without Equality nor without Security, and this is therefore the Foundation of the Union.

I know, it has been industriously spread about in *Scotland*, that *England* will keep no Conditions; and this to make the Scots uneasy; this has indeed been published in *Scotland*, but it was wrote and printed in *England*; and I am sorry to say, most of the Arguments raised against the Union, and wherein *England* is most concern'd — came from *England*, are coin'd in a High-Flying Cabinet, a Consult for the Destruction of the Union, not as defective in Parts, but as fatal in it self to some People, that study how to destroy it.

I confess, 'tis a Slander of a crimson Colour to charge the whole Nation with being not fit to be treated with, and I see no reason can be given for it, unless I should go to the *Cameronian* Address; a thing, that being the Act of a few Men, whose Characters I cannot give, other than that their Leader is disown'd and depos'd by the Church of *Scotland* it self——They merit Pity, and cannot be reason'd from in this Case.

I shall therefore say no more to this Part of the Question now, I shall take it more seriously to pieces hereafter.

But I return to the other side of the Question, *Viz.* Where it is allow'd to be deficient, and short of that Security to the Church, which by Vertue of a Treaty of Equality, she ought to demand.

And here I foresee, it will come in my Way to speak to those People, who fall out upon the Kirk of *Scotland*, as not satisfied with any thing, which does not leave her at Liberty to affront *Episcopacy*, and assault the Church of *England* her self; and from hence they would have it argued unsafe to unite with her.

And as this is founded upon the Address of the Commission of the Assembly of the Kirk, in which they propose six Heads for the Parliament to consider of, for the farther Security of the Church, and which some People too forwardly call invading the